(a) the number of districts that have been included in Mission Mode Project (MMP); and

(b) the number of districts of Orissa that have been included in pilot implementation of E-District Project and the progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) 35 Districts in 14 States have been included in the e-District Pilot Project.

(b) One District (Ganjam) of Orissa has been included in the implementation of pilot e-District project. This e-District pilot project is being implemented by Orissa Computer Application Centre (OCAC) at a cost of Rs. 323.87 lakhs. The State has floated the RFP (Request for Proposal) and is in the process of selecting the Application Development Agency.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Uranium mining

2106. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has shown keen interest in starting with uranium mining and setting up an N-Power Plant in the near future;

(b) if so, whether, in view of precarious petroleum product position and constant fluctuation of prices of crude oil all over the globe, ONGC's diversion to altogether a different activity will not adversely affect the exploration of crude and gas from our reserves both on-shore and off-shore; and

(c) the estimated reserves of uranium in India and quantity of uranium produced through mining during 2006 and 2007 by Uranium Corporation of India or others engaged in this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has signed a MoU with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) on 11th November, 2008 for sharing of exploration data within India and exploration and exploitation of uranium outside India.

(b) ONGC has clarified that Exploration and Exploitation of uranium will not interfere with their Exploration and Production business.

(c) The total in-situ reserve of uranium ore explored by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) in the country is 1,29,511 te of U_3O_8. At present uranium is produced only by UCIL and the quantity is not disclosed in public interest.